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home safety *Review*

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FALL 1960

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Are Trampolines Safe? Also in this issue: PANIC—YOUR WORST ENEMY

home safety Review

FALL 1960

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The Cover

Four-year-old Lynn Daniels of Chicago went on her first bouncing spree for our photographer and had so much fun she didn't want to come back to earth until mother, watching from the sidelines, insisted.

Editor
Jean Carper

Advisory Board

Philip Dykstra
Manager, Home Safety Department

Doris E. Mersdorf
Home Safety Consultant

Gordon O'Neill
Home Safety Engineer

Hugh McCahey
Home Safety Consultant

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Staff Secretary:
Philip Dykstra

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL
Chartered by the Congress of the United States
Home Office: 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

San Francisco Office: 703 Market St., San Francisco 3, Calif.

New York Offices:
Field Service & General Information, 60 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y.

Public Service Fund, 639-40 Chrysler Bldg., New York 17, N. Y.

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America's newest sport, trampolining, is so popular kids jam centers like this one in Chicago.

How Dangerous is the Bouncing Craze?

Jumping on trampolines has hazards like any sport, but is relatively safe if you obey certain bouncing rules.

TWENTY-FIVE years ago a vaudeville acrobat named George Nissen fastened a circus bouncing net onto an iron bed frame and in the privacy of his garage took the first ecstatic bounce that turned America into one big bounceland.

This year nine million Americans, thanks to Nissen's ingenuity, have taken to trampolines like so many happy kangaroos. What a few months ago was a West Coast fad has now bounded cross country, catching on in all large cities—Philadelphia, New York, Washington, Chicago — and many smaller ones. Centers, carrying such picturesque names as Jumpsville, Jump-O-Rama, Jumpin' Gyminy, Big Bounce, are reportedly opening at a rate of 10 a week. Everyone from tots to oldsters is forking over 30 to 40 cents for a half hour of joyful jumping.

Expert bouncers say the new craze satisfies man's age-old desire to overcome gravity, execute effortless jumps the way astronauts do in gravity-free test chambers. The source of the big bounce is the trampoline—a canvas or nylon net held taut by springs attached to a rectangular frame. It sometimes has legs, but in commercial centers is flush with the ground, and laid out row by row like a garden. Some persons steer away from using the word trampoline, because, although it is so common as to be in the dictionary, George Nissen holds a patent on it and is fighting in court to protect his rights. The correct term for the sport, he says, is rebound-tumbling.

Although Nissen first introduced Americans to jumping on trampolines in 1935, tumbling teams had been using them for years in vaudeville acts. One of the tumbling

pioneers of 1906 was actor Joe E. Brown who at 68 is still an enthusiastic bouncer. To prove it, he recently did his famous back flip at a trampoline center in Scottsdale, Ariz., and wound up with a cracked rib.

Brown's accident points up the problem that plagues the bouncing boom. In California a 16-year-old boy died after he dislocated his neck at a trampoline center. Another California boy became paralyzed as a result of a neck injury from trampolining. Other children began going home from trampoline centers with sprained ankles, bruised elbows and scratched knees.

At parents' request, the Los Angeles Health Department agreed to investigate the problem. Members of local Parent-Teacher Associations crusaded against the centers and attempted an economic boycott in some areas. Finally, Los Angeles County passed an ordinance requiring strict safety precautions regarding structure of equipment and operating procedure.

This law plus bad publicity drove many centers out of business. A California area that once supported 250 trampoline centers, now has only 35. "Business is so terrible here in California," complained one trampoline manufacturer, "that I'm going to Europe to forget it all."

No one knows how many accidents have happened at trampoline centers. California officials say victims were unskilled children who landed either in the springs, on the padded areas around the edge of the pits or on the ground between pits. And these youngsters were usually between 11 and 14 years old. Evidently many were attempting stunts far beyond their capabilities.

George Nissen, inventor of modern trampoline, competes with Australian kangaroo. Contest ended in a tie.

Coaches approve

Essentially, trampolining is a safe sport say coaches who have taught it in schools for years. A recent survey found that 98 out of 116 trampoline instructors enthusiastically favored trampolines because they help youngsters develop coordination, balance, rhythm, muscular strength and confidence. Only three instructors deemed the "tramp" dangerous.

Says Les Miller, athletic instructor at University of Illinois, "I've been teaching children from six on up to jump on the trampoline at summer camp. And they love it. We've had only a couple of minor injuries and they happened when someone was bouncing illicitly."

According to Rich Harris, gymnastics coach at Arcata (Calif.) High School, "During a quarter of a million bounces not one boy or girl suffered an injury of any nature. We are not going to say you can't get hurt on the trampoline . . . But over the years we have found our records show an accident occurrence as low, or lower than that of other physical education activities."

Coaches attribute trampoline accidents to pure carelessness. For example, a 25-year-old college student, practicing alone in the gym, did a back somersault, fractured his spine and was paralyzed from the waist down. This probably would not have happened had the boy been supervised, said the coach. Another 15-year-old boy, who had had no trampoline lessons, suffered a broken neck while doing advanced stunts. No one was "guarding" him although this precaution is a "must" even for professionals.

No one is more concerned about trampoline accidents than equipment manufacturers. The safety law passed in Los Angeles was formulated by the National Rebound-Tumbling Association, newly formed trade group for the industry. This law, which will undoubtedly serve as a model for other cities, insists that centers have the following built-in safety features: mats of AAU or NCAA approved quality, 6 feet by 12 feet; a distance of 5 and 6 feet between trampolines; padding on frames; shock absorbing material such as pea gravel on area between trampolines; no obstructions near the tramp beds, and sufficient lighting.

In addition, proprietors must provide a qualified tumbling instructor to supervise every 12 pieces of equipment.

Rules for patrons, too

Under the law, patrons must do their part too or risk a $500 fine and six months' jail sentence.

Among their rules, posted in a conspicuous spot at a center, are: Only one person on tramp at a time. No jumping without supervision of instructors. No bounding outside your own frame, for example, to an adjacent bed. No clowning. No interfering with other bouncers. Parents are also urged to supervise their children's jumping.

Similar rules, although not enforced by law, are posted in most centers all over the country just to "reduce accident proneness" as one proprietor phrased it. Still accidents do happen. Safety leaders think part of the responsibility lies

with parents who ship kiddies off to bounceland without a word about how to jump safely. Then when one falls on his head, the reaction is like that of one Indiana mother, "Those things are dangerous. I wouldn't let my children get on one."

Referring to the danger of trampolines, Dr. John H. Talbott, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association said: "A certain degree of hazard is connected with the use of any athletic apparatus and can't be entirely eliminated without stifling the sense of adventure derived from the activity."

However, gymnastic coaches believe the hazard can be minimized if children know what they are doing. Here are ten rules, outlined by professional trampoliners, that every child should know before stepping on a trampoline:

- Learn and practice the basic bounces (illustrated elsewhere in this article). Master these before proceeding to difficult stunts such as flips.
- Never travel during bounces. Always stay in the middle of the trampoline.
- Land with feet apart, at shoulder width. This gives you all-important control.
- Know how to "break" a bounce by bending your knees when you land.
- Jump only when an adult is present.
- Don't allow another person on the tramp with you. Jump alone.
- Never indulge in horseplay while jumping.
- Never bounce from one trampoline to another or from tramp to ground. *Step* on and off.
- Rest when tired. Fatigue cuts down your control and increases chances of an accident.
- Respect the trampoline as a powerful machine that magnifies your muscles.●

FIVE BASIC BOUNCES

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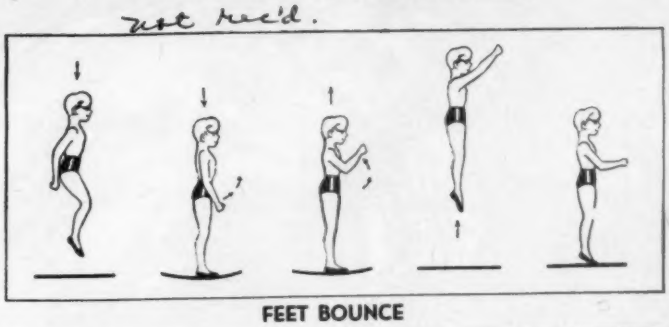
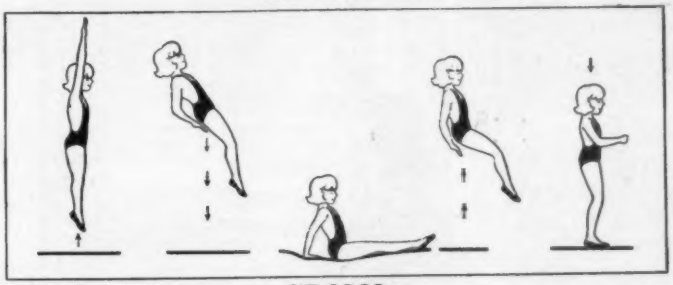


FEET BOUNCE



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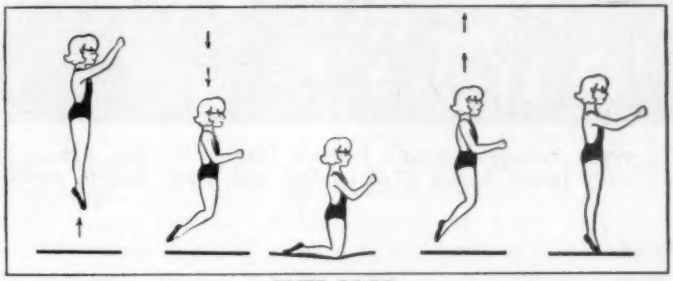

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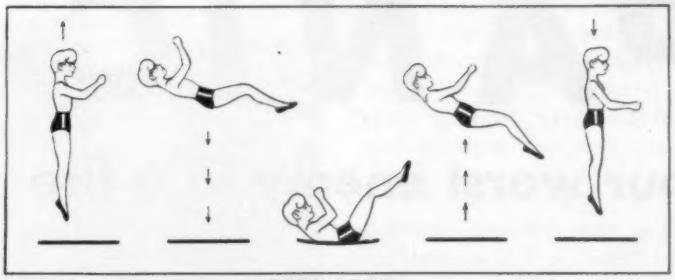

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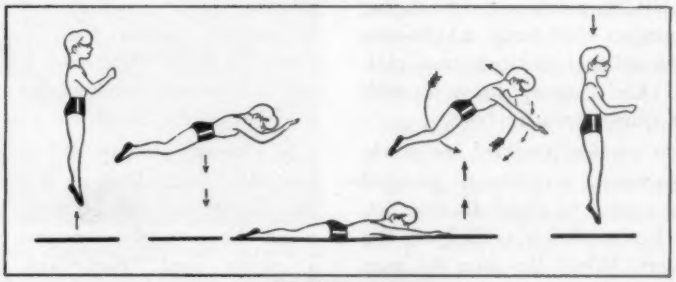

FRONT DROP

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As fire swept through Chicago's Iroquois Theater in 1903, patrons jumped from balconies, crushed each other in race for exits (where bodies piled up four feet high), despite performer Eddie Foy's attempts to prevent panic.

PANIC-

your worst enemy in a fire

PANIC in a fire is a devastating emotion that turns adults into frantic animals and irrational children. And leaves firemen with some grim, fantastic tales.

Two women, trapped by fire in a Cincinnati apartment, plunged three stories to their deaths. Yet, their husbands escaped down the stairway. Why? Because the men had discovered the flames several minutes earlier and fled without stopping to awaken their sleeping wives. "I don't know why I didn't call the women," explained one bewildered husband. "I just ran."

A Chicago woman and her 13-year-old niece died in a second story apartment fire although they could have easily escaped onto a porch roof. Neighbors who watched from their windows told a story of horror. The victims ignored shouts to climb on to the roof and instead raced wildly around the room like caged animals until they collapsed, ironically only a short distance from the window that led to safety.

During a recent fire in a New York building, a group of hysterical women huddled on a landing and refused to move even when a fireman beckoned them down the stairway. Finally he dashed up the stairs, grabbed two women by the arms and literally dragged them down four flights. The others wouldn't follow. They scattered like frightened children. Some ran back into the fire; others jumped out rear windows. Twenty-four died.

"What jolts me," the fireman said afterwards, "is that those who jumped had to pass an unob-

Trapped by fire, people lose all reason, become confused,

commit unbelievable deeds in their maniacal desire to save themselves.

structed rear exit, clearly and legally marked, in order to reach the windows. There was no reason in the world why they all couldn't have gone through that exit and down the back stairs."

No reason except pure inexplicable panic.

Why panic?

Panic is a complex phenomenon, difficult to analyze, say authorities. They can however, by interviewing persons who have experienced panic, reconstruct how and why it happens. Primarily a person must find himself in an extremely dangerous situation which threatens his life or that of a loved one. If he can think of no way to deal with the situation he is apt to panic.

He loses poise and self confidence, muscles refuse to function, hope is futile, his mind goes blank and he freezes or takes flight.

Susceptibility to panic does not depend upon sex, intelligence or age. It was once thought that women are more likely to panic than men, but that has been disproved. Some researchers say feeble-minded will panic easily. On the other hand, Yale students have been known to do the same thing. Children as well as adults panic, but sometimes in a different way. Firemen say children exhibit a tendency to hide where they think danger can't reach them.

Recently, a Chicago woman in a heroic rescue led 30 people from a burning apartment building, only to discover later that her young son had suffocated when he shut himself in a closet.

Authorities agree that poor mental or physical condition of a person may influence him to panic. Says Professor Irving L. Janis, Yale University, "The person most subject to panic is the one with many neurotic conflicts. When faced with an unfamiliar and threatening situation, he will go to pieces."

A person is also most likely to panic when he is physically weak, fatigued, exhausted, intoxicated, physically depressed or under high emotional tension. Then he will act impulsively rather than rationally.

Yet, some persons are able to remain calm in a potential panic situation. Firemen recently marveled over the cool courage of a nine-year-old girl trapped by fire in a New York apartment. She watched her father leap five stories to his death when firemen were seconds away from arranging a net beneath him. Then she calmly dropped her young sister and brother into the net and stepped off the window ledge herself.

Firemen examine spot where panicked women died after refusing to follow fireman down stairway to safety.

Similarly, an Army officer and his wife, trapped by fire on the twelfth floor of the Winecoff Hotel in Atlanta, kept cool heads even when fire licked at the door and occupants were jumping frantically from windows. The couple methodically plastered their door with a fire barricade of a water soaked blanket and mattress. Then they sat calmly in the smoke filled room, breathing through a small opening in the window until firemen broke in four hours later.

Crowds—panic prone

People crowded into a public building, such as a theater, tend to panic during an emergency. The noise, distraction, crowded conditions and power of mob psychology have turned sensible people into maniacs and contributed to some of our history's worst fire catastrophes.

A survivor of a 1956 fire in Brooklyn, Maryland, which killed 11 persons and injured 250, described how panic developed. About 1100 persons were attend-

Would you panic?

Is there any way to avoid becoming panicky should you be caught in a fire either at home or in a public building?

Fire safety experts unanimously offer this one suggestion: know what you are going to do *before* fire breaks out.

For example, whenever you enter a theater, locate the exits and remember the secondary exit closest to you. Most persons mistakenly attempt to escape the way they entered, jamming one exit, avoiding others. In the great 1903 Iroquois Theater fire in Chicago, 602 persons were killed. Bodies were found piled four feet deep at the main exit while rear exits were never opened.

Other advice: If a crowd begins to panic, sit still until you can evaluate the situation. Stay out of the rush. If the building is smoky, crawl along the floor, where air is best.

Also, never delay to search for belongings and never return to a burning building. Such trips are foolish. One man went back to retrieve possessions and returned with of all things, his toothbrush. Another went back to turn off stove burners.

Some experts think the best way to teach a person not to panic is to subject him to a panic-producing situation. Since this is impossible for humane reasons, their second best solution is to make a person prepare and rehearse what he would do under a potential panic circumstance.

For this reason they recommend fire drills – even in the home–as an antidote to panic. When a person has rehearsed over and over until the procedure is second nature to him, he should be able to escape fire without becoming panicked. A testimonial to this are the thousands of school children who have calmly walked away from burning school buildings.

Here's how to plan a fire drill for your home:

- Map out an escape route and an alternate from every room in the house.
- Set a meeting place for the family outside.
- Decide who should help small children, old people and invalids.
- Teach the family to notify the fire department.
- Emphasize escape from second floor rooms or bedroom wings. There is a good chance halls and stairways will be unusable for escape from fire. You may be able to escape by a porch roof under a window or a sturdy trellis.

A rope ladder with a permanently installed hook for fastening inside the window is good for rooms with no other exit. Be sure to practice throwing the ladder out the window, and climbing down.

- Teach everyone to test a door before opening it, if fire is suspected. If the panels or knob feel warm, do not open the door. Stuff a small rug or clothing along the bottom door crack to keep out smoke and flames as long as possible.
- After mapping out your plans practice them until they are second nature to your family. Once or twice is not enough, especially for your children. Remember, home fire drills may save your family.

ing an oyster roast in a hall when fire broke out in a corner of the ceiling. A man quickly put it out with a fire extinguisher. The crowd clapped and cheered and thought it was a joke. Then flames suddenly whipped across the whole ceiling.

"As heat, flames and choking smoke began enveloping the hall the patrons grew more panicky and began to push and shove toward several exits. Suddenly the lights were extinguished, plunging the hall into darkness, leaving only the red glow of flames overhead and the heavy smoke over all. Panic prevailed. Tables and chairs were overturned as people fought for exits and many were knocked down or lost their footing and were trampled."

Sometimes a fire need not be real to induce panic. The very thought often leads to chaotic behavior. The classic case of recent years happened in Michigan during a meeting of a woman's social club on the second floor of a building with a single six foot wide stairway.

The room was stuffy. A woman fainted. Another woman called for water. Someone jumped to the conclusion the building was afire and started a stampede for the stairway. A woman tripped, others toppled over her. Seventy-one women died from suffocation and injuries, proving once again that *panic* and not fire is man's deadliest enemy.

Are you to blame ***IF-?***

Your husky four-year-old plays rough with his baby sitter, knocks her over, injuring her seriously.

Answer: In California a baby sitter injured in such manner sued and won. The court held the little ruffian responsible for battery and parents negligent because they failed to warn the sitter of her charge's pugnacious tendencies.

You employ a teenage boy to cut the grass with your power mower and warn him to be careful. During the mowing, the machine loses its gasoline cap. To retrieve it, the boy reaches in front of the mower which creeps forward and mangles his hand.

Answer: In one such case the court judged the owner negligent because he knew the mower tended to creep forward on rough ground, but did not specifically warn the boy of that hazard.

During a round of golf you send a beautiful drive straight down the fairway and smack into a fellow golfer's head.

Answer: In one such case, the beaned victim collected $2,000. The court ruled the erring golfer had failed to give timely warning of his intention to tee off.

Negligence, which holds you responsible for an accident, has no set definition. Thus, it is up to a jury to decide. Results of cases printed here illustrate some decisions. But it is possible another jury might have decided differently.

A neighbor who sees you struggling to start your power mower offers to give you a hand. He plants his foot on the machine and pulls mightily at the starting rope. The motor catches on, but the machine bolts upward, snagging the neighbor's foot in the blade.

Answer: One victim of such neighborliness sued the mower owner but was turned down by a jury. They contended he should have known better than to pull the mower off the ground and that he assumed risk when he offered help.

Your nephew, who is helping you do some woodwork, drops by one day when you are away, goes to the basement shop and puts strips of wood into a power joiner. The guard is not in position, but the young man doesn't know how to put it back. A strip of wood kicks back, hits the man's hand, and throws it against the blade which severs two fingers.

Answer: A Michigan jury awarded such a young man $5,000 on the basis the uncle was negligent in leaving equipment in a hazardous position for an inexperienced worker.

A neighbor's boy is fascinated by your automobile parked in the driveway. He takes off the gasoline cap, then later while playing under the car he rubs two stones together and gets sparks. He is disfigured by the explosion.

Answer: In New York, parents of a boy injured this way sued the automobile owner, charging him with keeping an attractive nuisance – something dangerous which children find irresistible. Although the defendant maintained the boy was trespassing, he was awarded a whopping $75,000.

Goblins, come back alive!

HERE'S a scene that happens in more than one city on Halloween Eve: An excited young trick-or-treater, arms loaded with goodies, eyes half-covered by mask, wanders into the path of a car. The motorist doesn't see the small shadow-figure until too late.

You can protect your young goblins from such tragedy by adopting a "see and be seen" policy. Here are techniques some parents use:

Instead of buying a funny-face, devise one with make-up—eyebrow pencil, clown white, colored mustache sticks. Face paint provides clear vision, whereas the conventional mask with tiny peep holes restricts vision, can even slip over a child's eyes, temporarily blinding him.

To help drivers see your dark-clad offspring at night, decorate costumes with reflective liquid and tape. It gives an eerie appearance and shows up in automobile headlights.

For example, you can sew a skeleton suit from inexpensive black muslin, then brush on the "bones" with reflective coating. The liquid is available with a free brush from hardware, paint, auto accessory and sporting goods stores.

Also, you can paint the liquid on little witches' capes, jack-o-lanterns, broomsticks, masks and hats. In daylight the liquid is silver; in lightbeams at night it is brilliant silver-white, visible from a quarter of a mile if applied in large designs.

The reflective tape is red and is usually sold for bicycles. It will, however, stick overnight on capes, trousers, shoes, hats, masks.

You can wind it around hat bands, sleeves, trouser cuffs or hems of skirts and broomsticks. Or you can cut it into moons, stars or polka dots. Just remove the paper backing from the tape and press it on with the fingertips.●

Se 14h

Young trick-or-treaters, decorated with reflective tape and liquid, are easily seen in auto headlights.

Se 14h

Sad-faced clown, getting final dobs of make-up can see better than if she wore usual peep-hole mask.

Do-it-yourself safely

Here and on following 8 pages are materials to help you plan a community campaign

DO-IT-YOURSELF can no longer be called a craze. It has become such an integral part of American living that no one comments on it any more. They take it for granted.

Millions of persons are doing everything from their own plumbing to complete home construction, as well as pursuing a multitude of "hazardous" hobbies. An estimated 15 million Americans have home workshops.

No one knows how many do-it-yourselfers have accidents each year. An insurance company once estimated 650,000, more than half of which were connected with ladder use.

Local home safety committees, in cooperation with other local agencies, can give much-needed guidance to do-it-yourselfers. Some suggestions for a campaign:

- Get other groups involved. Solicit cooperation from PTA's, Jaycees, "Y's," women's clubs, service clubs, health associations. And don't forget local merchandisers, such as paint stores, that can give advice on safe repairing. Industry, also, has a big stake in off-the-job accidents and is more and more offering help in accident prevention campaigns.
- Support or initiate adult education courses in local high schools on "how to fixit."
- Sponsor a clinic for women on "how to do it" around the house. Women, often neglected in technical discussions, are taking an increasing interest in home repairs and need information.
- Sponsor speeches or demonstrations by local businessmen and technicians on all facets of do-it-yourself—such as safe use of ladders, use of power tools, simple electrical repair.●

ONE MAN'S WORKSHOP

Operating a home workshop can be hazardous, but Mike Flaherty has found a solution. Copy industry's safeguards and chances for accidents are few.

Ho 751 wo

Face shield protects Flaherty from hot wood chips and sawdust flying from lathe. He also wears it when using grinder, prefers it to goggles because it gives whole face protection.

MIKE FLAHERTY of Chicago spends most of his off-the-job hours in his home workshop and the only scars he has to show are two tiny ones on his right hand. "And those I got when I was a kid. One when I misused a hatchet. The other when a dull saw jumped up and bit me."

Flaherty, who on-the-job is research director for the National Safety Council, operates his shop on the assumption that "what can go wrong eventually will." So he takes no chances.

"I took my cue from industry," he says. "Thousands of industrial employees operate 'hazardous' machinery every day and don't mangle themselves. That's because they follow certain standard safety procedures. I simply adapted these same precautions to my workshop. Anyone could do the same."

Here are rules Flaherty suggests:

- Never use an electric saw without a guard. Most saws come equipped with one, but, if yours didn't, install one immediately.

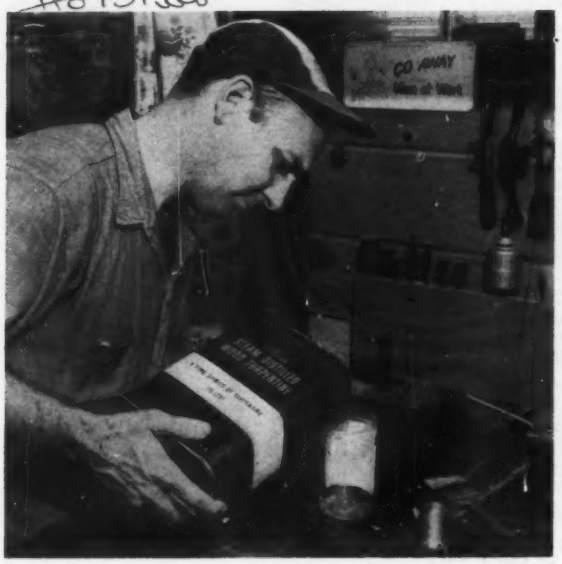
Ten by 25 foot workshop, adjacent to house, contains stationary radial saw, lathe, buffer and grinder plus portable sabre saw, circular saw, router, sanders and drill. Flaherty is polishing inlaid wood table, his specialty.

- Equip your electric saw with a feather board and kick back pawl.
- Always use push sticks, not fingers, when putting wood through an electric saw.
- Wear safety goggles or face shield when using lathe, grinder and similar machines.
- Never use dull tools. They are the most dangerous item around the shop.
- Always use the right tool for the job. Never, for example, use a screwdriver in place of a pry tool.
- Don't buy cheap tools. An extra dollar or two often means the difference between a poorly made, easily dulled item and a well-balanced, finely tempered one.
- Never point a tool toward your body. Always work away from yourself.
- Use clamps instead of your hands to hold material in place whenever possible. Two free hands are always better than one.

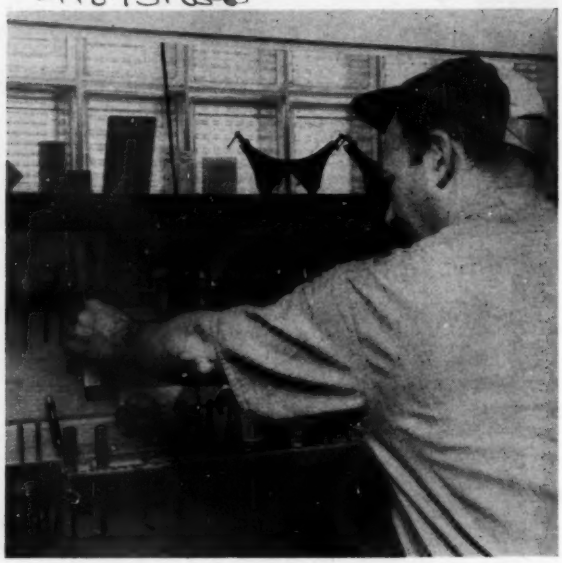
Sharp tools are a must. Flaherty sharpens tools after each session so they will be ready for next job.

Shop is outfitted with three wire electrical system which grounds equipment, reducing shock hazard.

When leaving shop, Flaherty shuts off circuit for power tools and padlocks cabinet that houses switch so kids can't get in and use tools. He also keeps portable tools and shop door locked when he is away.



While pouring flammable liquids, Flaherty keeps small fire extinguisher handy, lower right of photo. He usually does all painting, varnishing outside shop.



Each hand tool has its niche in rack above 7-foot work bench. Flaherty replaces tool immediately after using it, never lets it clutter up workbench.

Flaherty always uses push sticks to put wood through saw. Note also guard, anti-kickback feather board, direct light, vacuum cleaner to remove sawdust and how Flaherty stands at side, not in front of machine.

- Provide good indirect lighting and special lighting for machines. If you can't see what you're doing, you're apt to make a dangerous move.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby when using flammable materials.
- Make the workshop out of bounds for youngsters. Allow them there only at your invitation for a special purpose.
- Keep your workshop neat so you don't have to fumble around to find tools when you want them. Always replace tools immediately after using them.
- Ground all electrical equipment to reduce shock hazard.
- Install rubber mats in front of machinery to reduce shock and slipping hazards.
- Make a mental check list which you follow in operating each piece of equipment.
- Take your time. Haste not only produces poor work, but breeds carelessness—and accidents.●

How not to get shocked

Outfit your electrical equipment with a "safety wire" that carries electricity harmlessly into the ground instead of through your body.

EVERY time you switch on the TV, use the electric hedge clippers, plug in the electric saw, pull clothes from the electric washer or dryer, you flirt with electric current that could give you the jolt of your life.

Chances are slight that this would happen, but it *could* and *does* regularly. Some typical examples:

A Texas college boy on vacation was electrocuted while using a vacuum cleaner to remove debris from the family swimming pool.

A Chicago teenage girl died of shock when she simultaneously grasped a floor lamp and rubbed her toe against the metal cabinet of an operating television set.

A Florida do-it-yourselfer was fatally shocked when the electric drill he was using developed a short circuit.

None of these victims was aware of the danger. Death slipped up with tragic swiftness, leaving relatives and friends stunned.

How can you prevent a similar accident from striking your family? One precaution you can take is to ground your electrical equipment. This is done by providing equipment with a third "safety" wire which will divert a maverick current—should one develop—harmlessly into the ground.

The reason for grounding is this: An electric current has a natural compulsion to flow to the ground. In doing so, electricity may pass through your body, provided you are in contact with a defective electrical apparatus and standing on a non insulating surface such as earth, cement, metal, or touching a water pipe or other ground material which will provide a path for electricity.

To illustrate: Mrs. A., an Illinois housewife, uses an electric coffee

OTHER GOOD RULES

- *Be sure electrical cords are not frayed or worn.*
- *Be sure receptacles and plugs are not cracked or broken.*
- *Do not run lamp or appliance cords over pipes, radiators or under rugs.*
- *If you experience a slight tingling shock disconnect appliance and have it repaired before using it again.*
- *Purchase only lamps, appliances and extension cords that bear the tag of Underwriters' Laboratories.*

maker which has a small piece of plastic broken from the end of the plug on the power cord. That defect, like others such as a frayed cord, can cause a severe shock. As long as Mrs. A. handles the coffee maker and keeps the rest of her body from contacting a good ground, she is relatively safe, because the electricity has no path to the ground.

It could be a different story if she contacts the sink, stove or water faucet while touching the defective part. An electrical circuit would be formed and would flow through her body causing severe injury, burns or electrocution.

Built-in safety

Some equipment, especially washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, air conditioners and large power tools are manufactured with three wires reducing the shock hazard. Always look for that feature when purchasing large appliances.

However, some electrical equipment which should have the third ground wire do not, and it may be necessary for you to install or have this wire installed.

How you ground your equipment depends upon the type of wiring in your house. There are basically four types: metal conduit, armored cable, non-metallic insulated cable and knob-and-tube as shown in the illustrations.

If you can't determine your type of wiring, have an electrician do so. Then proceed with grounding the equipment as shown in one of the illustrations. The small amount of time it takes is well worth the effort and peace of mind.●

Material for this article was prepared by the Mechanical Safe Guarding Committee of the Industrial Conference, National Safety Council.

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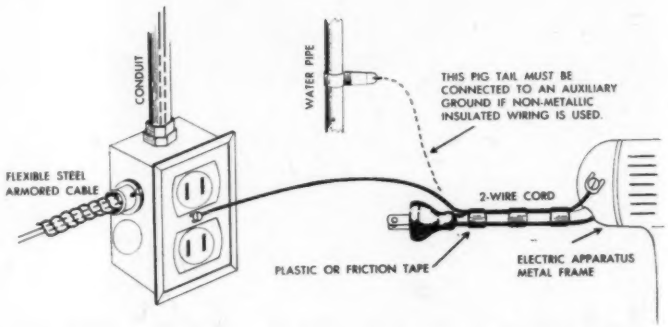
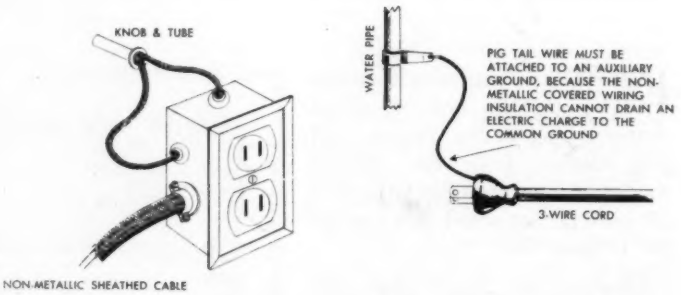
5 WAYS TO GROUND ELECTRIC

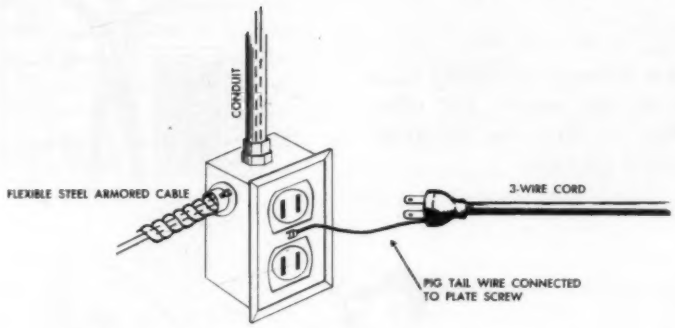

CONDUIT
WATER PIPE
THIS PIG TAIL MUST BE CONNECTED TO AN AUXILIARY GROUND IF NON-METALLIC INSULATED WIRING IS USED.
FLEXIBLE STEEL ARMORED CABLE
2-WIRE CORD
PLASTIC OR FRICTION TAPE
ELECTRIC APPARATUS METAL FRAME

To fit a conventional two wire apparatus with a third ground wire, connect a 14 or 16 gauge flexible copper wire to frame of the apparatus and dress wire along power cord to plug. Follow procedures indicated in the other illustrations, according to type of wiring in your home.


KNOB & TUBE
NON-METALLIC SHEATHED CABLE
WATER PIPE
PIG TAIL WIRE MUST BE ATTACHED TO AN AUXILIARY GROUND, BECAUSE THE NON-METALLIC COVERED WIRING INSULATION CANNOT DRAIN AN ELECTRIC CHARGE TO THE COMMON GROUND
3-WIRE CORD

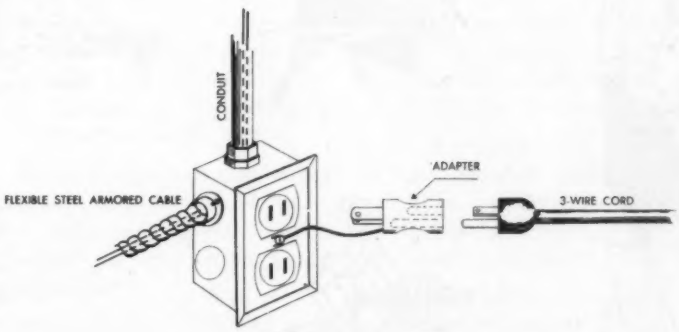
When the home is equipped with non-metallic cable or knob and tube installation, grounding is difficult. The pig tail of a three wire plug or adaptor must be connected to an auxiliary ground—such as metal framework of buildings or water well casings which lead to the earth. *Never* use gas pipes. When no such ground is available, install ground rods, plates, strips or other units meeting National Electrical Code requirements.

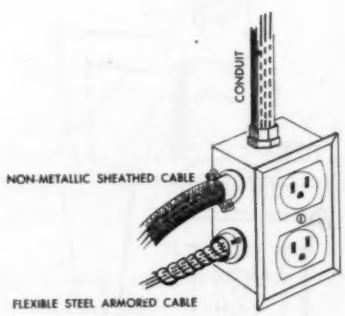
CTRL EQUIPMENT



You can ground a three wire electrical apparatus used with a conventional two wire conduit or armored cable wiring system by plugging the pig tail from the three wire plug to the receptacle plate screw.

You can adapt a three prong plug to a conventional two wire conduit or armored cable wiring installation by fastening the pig tail of the adaptor to receptacle plate screw. Such an adaptor can be purchased.





This is the ideal method of home wiring. With three wire installation throughout the home, you are protected from shock. The third wire drains all potential electric shocks to a common ground.

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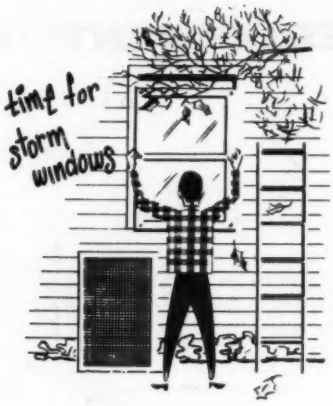
YOURS TO COPY

Local organizations putting out safety material often lack illustrations. If you're planning to do something on do-it-yourself safety here are some drawings you can use. For mimeograph simply trace them on the stencil. For offset printing, cut them out and paste in desired position.



Materials on do-it-yourself

Booklets

Tips to the Handyman Hobbyist on How To Do It Safely—a 46 page illustrated booklet written by Dr. Herbert J. Stack and Dr. Leon Brody, Division of General Education, New York University. Free by writing The Home Insurance Company, 59 Maiden Lane, New York 8, N. Y.

If You Do It Yourself, Do It Safely – an illustrated folder. Write Engineering Department, Argonaut Insurance Group, 210 Sansome St., San Francisco, Calif.

Safety in the Home Workshop—a 15 page illustrated booklet. 10 cents each for up to 500 copies. Popular Mechanics Press, 200 East Ontario St., Chicago 11, Ill.

Do-It-Yourself, but Do It Safely —mimeographed booklet of tips for many projects. Nicholas P. Stumpf, 527 Wilson, Des Plaines, Ill. Cost, 50 cents.

Do It Yourself SAFELY—4 page illustrated leaflet. Available to safety leaders from Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, One Madison Ave., New York 10, N.Y.

NSC Materials

Safety Education Data Sheets

Safety for Amateur Electricians, #429.04-19

Cutting Implements, #429.04-6
"Do-It-Yourself" Safety in, #429.04-68

Home Workshops, #429.04-41

Hand Tools, #429.04-15

Welding and Cutting Safely, #429.04-56

Safety in the Wood Shop, #429.04-46

Data sheets are available from the National Safety Council. 10 to 99 copies, $.06 each. Lower prices for larger quantities. Order by stock number and title of data sheet. Prices subject to a 10 per cent discount to N.S.C. members.

A Simple Do-It-Yourself Project —illustrated leaflet. Cost up to 50 – .057 cents each; 500 – .04 cents each. Stock number 194.22. From National Safety Council.

HOW TO LOCK JUNIOR OUT

HOW can you keep Junior or the neighbors' kids from using your power tools when you're not around? One obvious way is to keep the tools locked up. Another is by having a locked switch on the tool.

Do-it-yourselfers also could use, especially on portable tools, the following gadgets, which prevent the tool from being plugged in.

One such device is a plug with a built-in lock. When the plug is locked, a bar protrudes from between the two prongs, preventing them from entering a socket. You unlock it with a key and the bar withdraws into the body, leaving the prongs free.

When locked, setscrew in plastic block grips blade, prevents use.

It is reported that the plug would prohibit children, but could be bypassed by an adult or an older boy knowing the ins and outs of electricity.

Another gadget is a small padlock that can easily be inserted through the hole in the end of a blade in an electric plug. Again the padlock would deter children, but could be bypassed by one knowing electricity.

Another device is a small block of plastic that fits over one of the blades. It is "locked" by a small Allen-type set screw in its side which grips the blade. And is unlocked by a tiny "key," which is essentially a short piece of an Allen-type wrench to remove the set screw.●

Condensed from *Consumer Bulletin* Magazine, March, 1959.

Milkmen to the rescue!

The milkman is a baby's friend in more ways than one. At least in Chicago. According to Fire Commissioner Robert J. Quinn, the city's early morning milk distributors spot many incipient fires, warn residents and often give emergency aid. Several have even made spectacular rescues, braving fiery stairways to reach children.

Consequently, the Chicago fire department enlisted the city's 5,500 milk wagon drivers as lay firemen and trained them in resuscitation, first aid and fire rescue methods.

Hazards of house buying

Planning to buy a house? Some new-home features that may endanger your pleasure and your safety were listed in a recent issue of *Good Housekeeping*. Check for them:

- No light or electrical outlet on the porch or terrace.
- An accident-inviting door that opens *toward* basement stairs.
- No light switches at the entrance to rooms or no two-way switches at strategic locations, such as both ends of a hall and the top and bottom of a stairway.
- Windows in a child's room too low for safety, too high for him to see out of.
- Child-trap closets—i.e., those that can't be opened from the inside.
- Too few electrical outlets for lamps and appliances.

Does your TV have its knobs?

If your TV loses its tuning knobs be sure to replace them, because the exposed metal spikes can give you a shock. That's the warning of Robert Cornell, president of the Certified Electronic Technicians Association.

He points out that metal parts of your TV chassis may carry dangerous voltages and advises against letting children touch a set with a defective knob. You can easily replace a knob, he says, by getting one from your TV technician, pulling off the damaged one and sticking on the new.

Like father, like son

Take pills when children are not watching, lest they imitate you and poison themselves urges Dr. Alfred Koumans of Norwalk, Conn. His recent study revealed that seven out of every ten children who took a poisonous dose of medicine did so after observing adults take pills.

Dr. Koumans also warns parents to lock bottles of pills in cabinets instead of just putting them out of children's reach. Children, eager to imitate elders, will climb to astounding heights to obtain medicine, he reports.

Nix to candy colored pills

Another reason children eat pills is their bright color making them look like candy, concluded two English doctors after a study. They found that young children by far preferred colored pills, with magenta the favorite, followed by pink, blue, orange and brown. White was least popular.

The doctors' recommendation to protect children from poisoning: medicine should look like medicine and not like candy.

New storm over storm doors

Newest hazard to cause concern among parents of small children is the storm door without shatterproof glass.

One boy will be scarred for life by the dozens of cuts he received after walking into a glass door. But he was luckier than a 9-year-old boy who bled to death after one of his leg arteries was cut, or another 9-year-old who had 184 stitches in his leg wound alone. Both boys smashed into glass doors.

Parents are asking, "Why don't manufacturers use shatterproof glass for all storm doors?"

MOBILE HOMES
have hazards, too

If you own a trailer for home or travel, here are hazards to look out for.

by Tom Dodds

"YOU'LL never get me to live in one of those things," remarked a middle-aged man as he watched mobile homes being towed into the exhibition hall of a recent midwestern modern living show.

This stubborn gentleman would get quite an argument from some 3,500,000 mobile home dwellers. Add to this group the 365,000 owners of travel trailers who occupy their homes on wheels mostly on vacations and weekends, and it's easy to see that what once was regarded as a curiosity now houses a surprisingly large portion of our population.

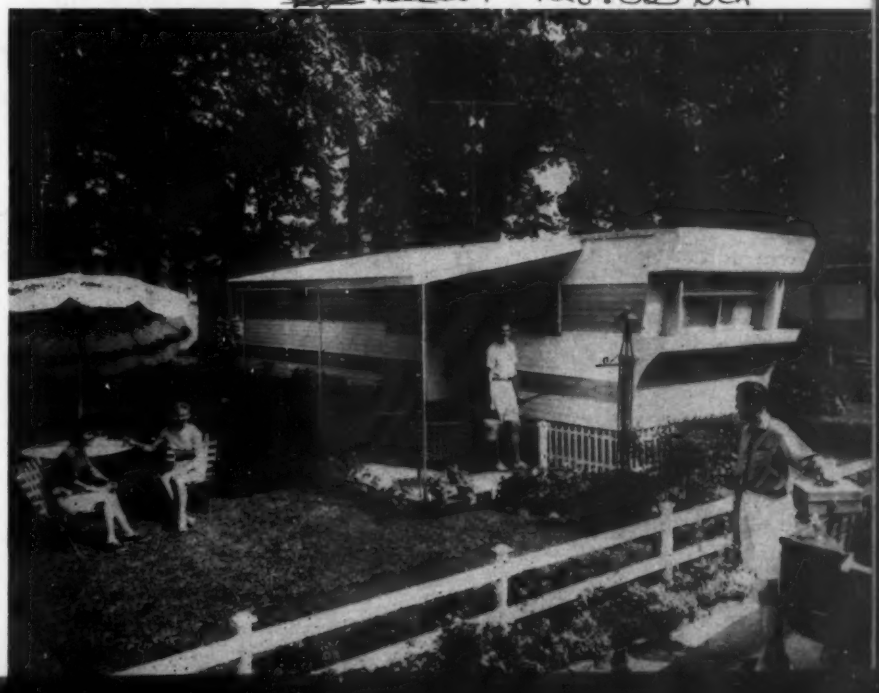
Knock on the door of a mobile home and there's a fair chance you'll be greeted by a doctor or lawyer. Some 18 per cent of mobile home owners are professional people. Skilled workers comprise 37 per cent of mobile home population, and 20 per cent is military personnel. Retired people occupy 10 per cent of such dwellings, students 3 per cent. More owners fall into these categories than any others.

Most mobile home owners are enthusiastic about economy, mobility, compactness, less housekeeping, among other advantages. Few realize there are special hazards involved in this type of living.

If you're now an owner or are planning to purchase a mobile home, there are some things you should know.

For instance, the very compactness which appeals to a lot of people helps create a hazard when a person uses cleaning fluids or other solutions which may produce dangerous fumes. Carbon monoxide poisoning is another danger. *The mobile home should be properly ventilated at all times.*

Enter a typical mobile home and you'll probably be impressed by the fact that it seems longer than you thought it would be. Because of this length and the narrowness, adequate circulation of warm air can be accomplished only by a furnace equipped with a blower. In addition to circulating the air, the furnace is designed also to pull in fresh air which is heated and "blended" with the inside air.



3,500,000 people, young and elderly alike, enjoy life in mobile homes.

This outside air is needed to provide a constant supply of oxygen to the burner in the furnace. *Under no conditions should the fresh air intake on the furnace be blocked or obstructed. Never go to sleep or leave a mobile home with the furnace burning at full fire.*

The blower on the furnace should be cleaned regularly. If it becomes "linted up," the motor and furnace can overheat.

Two types of heating systems are used in mobile homes—gas and oil.

Oil heaters are probably the better known. They're simple to light and operate if manufacturer's directions are followed carefully. Here are some things to remember:

- Use only straight run No. 1 fuel oil. Never add gasoline or naphtha to the fuel oil.
- When lighting the furnace, let it burn on the start position for five minutes before turning the dial on the fuel control valve to a high-numbered position.
- Don't tinker with the furnace. If you think adjusting is necessary call someone who knows how to do it.
- During the summer when the heater is not in operation the oil should be drained from the tank and valve.

If a mobile home is equipped with bottled gas for cooking or heating or both, use extreme caution before turning on the gas at the cylinder. All appliance valves should be closed. If the home has been in transit, fuel lines, connections and appliance valves should be checked, both before and after opening cylinder valve.

Before you hit the road with a mobile home, turn gas off at the main valve above the outside cylinder. Never tow a home with a fire burning in it.

A mobile home should be grounded properly whenever it's connected to a source of electricity. The only safe and approved method of grounding it is through the attachment plug, flexible cable, and the park receptacle to which the mobile home is connected. Grounding to a rod or a water pipe or through the home's hitch caster or metal stabilizer does not provide protection.

In the event of electrical insulation failure on inside wiring, the mobile home may become charged or "hot." If it's properly grounded, this condition will immediately blow a fuse or trip the circuit breakers. This prevents fire or possible injury from electrical shocks. Defective wiring should be repaired by a licensed electrician.

Mobile home manufacturers foresee a continuing growth of the mobile home population. Although as much safety as possible will be built into these homes, in the end, the occupants themselves will be pretty much responsible for what happens.●

Tom Dodds is editor of NSC's *Safe Worker* and *Safe Driver*.

OXYGEN OR CO_2 PELLETS?

THE photo below shows what happened when a 14-year-old boy by mistake inserted an oxygen cartridge into a BB pellet gun which used carbon dioxide cartridges. The pistol exploded into 47 pieces, taking three of the boy's fingers with it.

The oxygen apparently caused an explosion when it came in contact with oil and grease in the gun.

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The boy's mistake was tragic but understandable. It was impossible to distinguish between the CO_2 and oxygen cartridges. Several of both kinds are shown in the photo. They are exactly the same shape, size and even worse, all painted green.

The cylinders are also used in toy boats, toy automobiles and other toys. Unless manufacturers devise a way to make the two cylinders distinguishable, more trouble will be on the way.

One manufacturer reports he has licked the problem by making carbon dioxide cartridges bigger than oxygen ones and stamping them CO_2. Seems easy, doesn't it?

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Modern Swiss riflemen, among 60,000 shooters at recent matches, fired Schmidt Rubin carbines of 1931 style, similar to those imported in U.S.

Don't Be Afraid of SURPLUS RIFLES

Here are pointers on how to buy and care for out-of-date war weapons, inexpensive and safe to shoot.

by William B. Edwards

The summer issue of HSR carried the article "Imports—Cheap and Dangerous," condemning imported war surplus guns. Several persons considered the article biased. So here is the other side of the story presented by Bill Edwards, Technical editor of Guns *Magazine.*

GROWTH of a new aspect of the firearms trade has in recent years placed upon the market hundreds of thousands of "war surplus" firearms. Though many of these weapons—rifles and handguns—have never seen war, reposing since their manufacture (perhaps as much as a half century ago) in some distant arsenal, the term is a fair expression. Almost without exception the arms are military arms of a bewildering variety of calibers, and range from as little as $8 or $9, to over $100 each rifle. This market poses a number of questions in safety to the prospective sportsman-buyer.

If you buy a modern-make rifle for, say, hunting or target shooting, the probability is that the dealer also stocks appropriate ammunition and knows all about it. The gun maker's sales reps have seen to that. But if you buy "an Argentine Mauser" for only $19.95, there may remain some things to do that, omitting them, will endanger life and limb. And often the gun dealer is little help, for neither he nor anyone else except a very few experts in this century may have ever seen an example of this rifle before.

Consider the surplus rifle in virtually "factory new" condition, at a moderate price. Though it may be a bargain, there are still a few simple rules to follow in eliminating the dangers.

First, is it greasy? Some governments store their arms in cosmoline, a thick dark preservative. Gasoline or range oil are among the solvents which can be used to clean off such an arm. But even though the rifle is unfamiliar in model and construction, you cannot stop with simply wiping off the outside. If a trace of grease remains in the chamber and you insert and fire a cartridge, you will create dangerous pressures because the excess lubrication will deliver all the force of the explosion against the bolt, as the case slides back, instead of taking up some of the force in friction between cartridge case wall and chamber wall.

Unlike modern-packaged new guns, your surplus rifle will not

have an illustrated guide to disassembly. But, fortunately, even if you know little of military weapons construction, there are books on the market (such as the W. H. B. Smith *Basic Manual of Military Small Arms*) that show all the breakdown steps.

Inspect your gun

American ordnance standards do not demand withdrawal of a rifle barrel from service unless it contains at least one pit that extends across one land or one groove or both. This, as any rifleman knows, is a pretty big "hog waller" and indicates considerable neglect. A lightly speckled bore surface, or one roughened slightly but with the spiral rifling still sharp, is probably as accurate for hunting and target range powder burning sessions as one fresh from the factory.

With the bolt removed, examine the rear edge of the rifling as seen through the chamber. If you can see a sharply defined slope immediately at the back edge of the rifling, and smooth even metal marks of finishing there, your rifle is in pretty good condition, possibly unfired. If, however, there is a shadow depression that extends as a smudge up the rifling for an inch or more, your rifle has probably seen a good deal of service.

In the first instance, the forcing cone or bullet "leed" is undamaged; in the second, erosion by the hot gasses washing away the metal had darkened and scooped out the rifling, and inaccurate shooting will result. This does not mean, as yet, that the rifle is dangerous, but it does suggest you soft pedal this one for constant use and turn to some other rifle in better condition.

Along with an eroded bore, you may find the firing pin excessively sharp. Also, the pin may protrude too far from the face of the bolt when fired, puncturing a primer. If this happens, hot gas under maximum pressure may squirt back into your face. This has blinded shooters. Consequently, experienced riflemen always wear shooting glasses when on the range. These are large-lens spectacles of very hard safety-type glass or rock glass, either tinted for beneficial viewing under varying lighting conditions, or both tinted and prescription ground as needed.

But as good a way to insure safety is to inspect the firing pin: it should be neatly rounded, a hemisphere in shape on the very tip, and the shank should just fill the hole in the face of the bolt. The edges of the hole should not be burred up. Excessive pitting around this hole will also indicate heavy use. It is not a dangerous condition, but it suggests you might find a better rifle for the money farther along in the rack. Exact dimension of firing pin protrusion may vary from make and model to model, but generally it should be enough to "bust the cap," to dent the primer solidly, but not more.

Check headspace

With the arm reassembled correctly, but without the *bolt plug and firing pin inserted* into the bolt, take up a cartridge and place it in the magazine well. Feed it carefully forward by closing the stripped bolt, and feel if the bolt handle meets any resistance as you turn it down. If so, and this slight resistance is felt in the closing instant of the bolt as you try several cartridges, you probably have a condition of "good headspace," a condition of safety and strength.

Headspace is the relationship between the size of the chamber with the bolt closed, and the size of the actual cartridge. It should be such that the cartridge is snug in the chamber. If the cartridge is loose, it may set back at the instant of firing with much force, in the same way it will do in a greased chamber. This may be enough to damage the gun and you.

But if the bolt closes easily, don't be disturbed. Try it next with a thickness of Scotch tape stuck on the cartridge base. You should meet some resistance then. If in doubt, always check the actual headspace with ground steel gauges manufactured by gunsmith supply firms for this purpose. Each caliber designation (of the hundreds in use in the world today) has its own headspace tolerances and it is important to know what these are and to gauge them correctly. With the British rifles of recent importation and sale, this is usually not a problem. They have been proof tested and their chambers gauged at the Gun Trade Proof Houses in London and Birmingham and warranted serviceable in that respect.

Proof testing means "proving" the safety of the barrel and action by firing one or more extreme pressure cartridges. The American Winchesters for example bear the mark "oval-W, P" indicating "Winchester Proof." The British rifles may bear the marks "Crown over circle NP" and other symbols, meaning "Nitro (modern gunpowder) Proved." Other nations have analogous marks and knowing these is a worthwhile study if you are in the market for a foreign gun of any kind, military surplus or sporting.

Tests prove quality

Much has been written about the unsafe qualities of military arms. We have not gone into this point because so far all that has been written with one or two extremely esoteric exceptions is incorrect. One of the cheapest of the surplus imports, an Italian "Terni" carbine, caliber 7.35mm, withstood a double bullet proof without failing. This is an extremely severe proof test in which a metal jacketed military bullet is seated

ahead of the full loaded cartridge so that the loaded bullet tip is in contact. This test did not damage the rifle, and both bullets were blown out okay. The cartridge base was burned half away and the extractor, actually the weakest point in this rifle's design, was bent slightly. Any gunsmith could have restored the arm to service.

Other military arms are of equal or superior strength. Military standards are the highest in the world, demanding interchangeability beyond that acceptable to commercial riflemakers. A sporting rifle is acceptable if it will shoot right and hold together, and looks good. But it may have a far lower degree of interchangeability in manufacture than a military rifle.

Carefully inspected

Remember, if a sporting rifle failed, maybe a hunter did not get his deer. But if a military rifle failed, a nation could lose a war. Ordnance arms buyers were far more strict in every detail of supervising a rifle contract than any sporting rifle firm could hope to be. As an example, the current U.S. automatic rifle costs the government, according to the contract price, about $113. The same firm making the U.S. rifle also makes an automatic rifle for sporting use. But the *retail* price on the sporting rifle is hardly higher than the basic government price on the military arm.

Repeated costly inspections to maintain quality are one phase of the high cost of the government rifle. The commercial equivalent actually costs the manufacturer probably not more than one fourth what the government rifle costs. So when you buy a surplus military arm you probably are getting a good deal. But buy one in its original condition. Pay a little more for the selected grade, to ensure that you get a good one.●

Readers Ask

Readers' questions answered by PHILIP DYKSTRA
Manager, Home Safety Department

I recently read that a little girl died from eating detergent for automatic dish washers. I cannot believe detergent is that poisonous. Is it?

Definitely. This detergent is extremely toxic—as dangerous as straight lye, as are many household products, such as bleach. You may have been misled because the products are not labeled as being hazardous. But there is now a bill in Congress to correct that.

My 12-year-old son wants a rifle for his birthday, because "all the other boys have one." I'm hesitant, but his father thinks it is okay. Is he old enough?

Only parents can decide whether their child is dependable enough to accept the responsibility of owning a gun. If your boy has demonstrated good sense in the past he is probably old enough. Here are two precautions: Buy a .22 caliber rimfire bolt action rifle—the safest gun for a beginner. Also, be sure your boy receives good instruction in safe gun handling. He can get this through a local club affiliated with the National Rifle Association. Ask your gun dealer for the name of a club in your area.

When I learned first aid twenty years ago we were taught to use a tourniquet. Now, I understand the tourniquet is taboo. Why?

A tourniquet is very risky. It can cause damage to body tissues and if left on too long may result in gangrene. Direct pressure instead of a tourniquet is now recommended.

Says the Red Cross, "The tourniquet should be used only for severe, life threatening hemorrhage that cannot be controlled by other means." This would be *only* when severe bleeding involves an extremity in which large arteries are severed or in case of partial or complete severance of a body part.

Should you put foam rubber in an automatic dryer?

No, because even a small amount of heat can cause the material to ignite. Last February a child's foam rubber toy ignited when it fell from his bed and onto a baseboard type radiator. The National Fire Protection Association reports that several fires in dry cleaning plants were attributed to spontaneous heating of foam rubber padding in clothes after they had been in a drier.

My boy, who is in junior high, has been earning spending money by mowing lawns. Now some of his customers have refused to hire him, saying a power mower is too dangerous. How can we convince them otherwise?

Surely your son can find a safer way to earn money. Power mowers should be handled only by an adult thoroughly instructed in safe operation. Under no circumstances should children, including young teenagers, operate these mowers. In fact, in Kentucky it is illegal for anyone under 18 to be employed to use a power mower. State law forbids employment of minors to operate hazardous power driven machinery.

Beware:

RABIES in the WILD

Rabid skunks, foxes, bats will infect you if they get the chance. Here's how to protect yourself.

LAST spring several men on a canoe trip camped for the night and had this strange experience. A fox, usually terrified of humans, strode into camp as if it owned the place. The men chased it out, but twice it reappeared. Once it even swam to the opposite side of camp and tried to enter that way. Finally, it abandoned its slyness and simply charged a man and bit him on the leg. The men clubbed the animal to death with a canoe paddle.

Fortunately, they were quick thinking enough to save the fox head and send it to public health authorities. Sure enough the report came back—rabies! And the fox's victim began anti rabies shots which may have saved him from horrible death.

This case is not unique.

Rabies in wild animals is increasingly becoming a problem. Whereas the incidence of rabies in dogs has dropped sharply during the last decade, the number of cases of rabies in wild animals—especially skunks, foxes and bats—has doubled. In fact, more cases of rabies are now being reported in wild than in domestic animals.

Rabid wildlife will readily attack humans and are a special hazard to campers, hikers and picnickers. Moreso, because few persons are aware of the danger. Everyone will run like crazy from a frothing "mad" dog. But few persons can spot the symptoms of rabies in wild animals.

Unwary campers are easy prey to a "mad" animal that may sneak into tent and attack sleeping occupants. Always fasten tent flaps tightly.

Rabies is a disease that attacks the nerve tissues and brain and completely alters an animal's natural character. A wild animal is instinctively shy of man and makes it a point to avoid him. But a rabid animal abandons normal fear, and will even seek out man and attack him.

At this point the animal is in the "mad" stage in which it runs aimlessly and bites viciously at any object in sight. Later the animal will suffer creeping paralysis and limp away to die. But before succumbing, it infects dozens of other wildlife which perpetuate the disease.

The effects of this vicious circle are seen in certain areas. For example, New York in 1941 confirmed rabies in only one fox. From 1944 through 1957, the state's annual average number of rabid foxes shot to 183, with a record of 497 in 1950. Likewise, rabies in skunks was once comparatively rare. But during 1958 the U.S.

Public Health Service by laboratory tests found 1,005 skunks rabid, accounting for 20 per cent of all rabies cases in the nation.

For the most part rabid foxes stick to the eastern and southern part of the country and rabid skunks to the great plains of the upper Missouri and Mississippi valleys and central valley of California.

Cute but deadly

California skunks have shown particular audacity in attacking campers. Typical was the skunk that last year invaded a camp and attacked five Boy Scouts sleeping in the open.

A few years before, a small spotted skunk slipped into a tent and bit a man and wife while they slept. The woman, attacked twice, died of rabies.

In Texas, at one time, a person didn't even have to go into the wilds to encounter rabid skunks. A pet dealer was bringing them in and selling them. He was trapping pregnant skunks, nursing litters, weaning the young in captivity and selling them for pets. But business slumped when some of the offspring bit a few people and turned out to be rabid.

The bat has also emerged as a notorious carrier of rabies within the last seven years. The first cases were reported in 1953 in Florida and Pennsylvania, and since, infected bats have turned up in nearly half the states. They have been found in states along the southern border, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Great Lakes, as well as in Minnesota, Nebraska and Montana.

Naturally, public health officials are working to combat the new rabies epidemic among wildlife. But it's difficult. The solution so far seems to be to kill off a number of the species exhibiting the highest incidences of rabies. This is usually done by trapping, although some areas use poison baits, which are considered hazardous. The purpose is not to make a certain species extinct, but to reduce its population until it can no longer support an epidemic of rabies.

In the meantime, nature lovers who want to commune with wildlife had better do it at a safe distance. Here are some precautions to observe during your sojourns into the wild.

- If you're camping in a tent, fasten flaps tightly, so no animal can slip through. If sleeping in the open, surround yourself with a small chicken wire fence which most animals can't climb over or through.
- If you must feed wild animals, set the food far enough away so you can watch the animal but not touch it.
- Don't let your dog or cat roam in underbrush. It could be bitten.
- Don't touch or pet any wild animal, especially if he appears friendly or exhibits other abnormal behavior.
- If you notice an animal lying sick or apparently dead, don't pick it up or observe it at close distance. Tell your gamewarden about the animal.
- If, despite your caution, you or a member of your family is bitten, capture the animal, alive if possible. If you must kill it, do not damage the head because the evidence of rabies is in the brain.

How To Spot a Rabid Dog

- *A few days after being infected, a dog undergoes personality change. If it was friendly it may become irritable. If it was vicious it may become amiable.*
- *It may scratch and hide away from noise and light.*
- *It refuses to eat and tries to gulp strange objects like stones.*
- *In later stages its throat muscles become paralyzed, causing it to cough and froth at the mouth.*

Don't wait until your dog develops these symptoms.

There's only one solution to the rabid dog problem. Have the animal inoculated.

Vaccine stops virus

Go to a doctor as soon as possible, although speed is not all-important. Don't panic but don't tarry. And don't do as a farmer did when bitten by a bat. He joked about it, instead of visiting the doctor. When he did it was too late. Once the virus, carried in an infected animal's saliva, gets from a man's wound into his nervous system, there is no cure. The disease is 100 per cent fatal.

Vaccine if administered in time can keep the virus from traveling. The vaccine causes a person to produce antibodies which neutralize rabies viruses before they damage nerves.

Only a doctor can decide if there is danger of rabies and whether to start the painful one-a-day injections that go on for 14 to 21 days. Usually he will wait a few days to determine if the animal is rabid. If alive it will be put under 10 days' observation to see if it exhibits rabies symptoms. If dead, its brain will be sent for laboratory tests.

But if a person is bitten severely or around the head, the doctor will start shots immediately.

But the important thing is: Don't expose yourself to rabies in the first place. And don't fall for those lovable wildlife looking for a hand out. Or they may really put the bite on you.●

On this boy's menu was a toy soldier that had to be removed by surgery. On chart is conglomeration of other strange objects kids have swallowed.

ch 431 b

Kids Eat the Darndest Things

IF a baby had his way his diet might include—buttons, bones, marbles, keys, coins, rings, toys—and a conglomeration of other indigestible items youngsters seem to have a passionate appetite for.

Left alone, a baby may forage all kinds of inedible goodies which all too often become stuck in his throat or lungs.

Take for example, Linda, one year old. Her mother couldn't get her to eat solid food. It just wouldn't go down. No wonder. A doctor's X ray showed that for the last 11 months the baby had had a ring stuck in her throat.

Tommy had a favorite little green plastic toy he liked to suck on. One day it went down his throat and although a pediatrician worked for hours he couldn't locate it. Tommy died.

Then there was a little girl who swallowed a hat pin while she was dressing her doll. Why? Because she was holding the pin in her mouth the way her mother did when she dressed her.

Children just can't be trusted with small objects. And danger is not simply from swallowing; it is also from inhalation into the lungs. For example, suppose you give a baby a piece of candy containing a whole peanut. He will suck the candy until it is gone and only the peanut remains in his mouth. Then he will spit the peanut out, swallow it whole or choke on it. If he does the latter, he is likely to inhale the nut, which will block his air passage or go into his lungs.

Objects children most frequently consume are safety pins, tacks, peanuts, small toys, seeds, buttons, beads and coins.

Follow these precautions:

• Don't let your child eat nuts or candy bars with nuts until after he is five years old.

• Don't let a young child chew on pencils, toothpicks or other wood objects that yield splinters he can inhale or ingest.

• Before you place a baby on the floor to play, inspect it for small objects.

• Never leave purses, sewing baskets, or other such containers within reach of babies.

• Never allow children to play with toys small enough for them to swallow or with toys having loose or detachable parts, such as eyes on animals or bells on pull toys.

If, however, your child chokes on a foreign object, turn him upside down and slap him gently on the back. If this doesn't dislodge the object take the child to the hospital immediately.

Never try to remove the object from his throat with your fingers; you may push it down into the wind pipe. And don't try to make the child vomit.●

INVENTORY

Blueprint for community action

by Hugh McCahey

THE community which becomes actively interested in "doing something" about the home accident problem is faced with two questions: "What is already being done in this field?" and "Who is doing it?" Experience has shown that poor communication within and among agencies and organizations often results in spotty programming or duplication of efforts. It also prevents one organization from profiting from the successes and failures of others.

To improve communication and programming in home accident prevention, the National Safety Council has offered to various communities over the past few years the Home Safety Inventory program. This program is sponsored every two years by the Home Department under the direction of the Home Conference's Inventory Committee.

The Inventory's objective is to stimulate the development, expansion and coordination of home accident prevention activities within each community's civic, service, medical, governmental, business and other organizations. Its main purpose as a "home safety tool" is to assist community leaders in evaluating their current home safety efforts and to guide them in developing effective home accident prevention activities for the future.

Encouraged by past acceptance and success of the Inventory, the National Safety Council this year is offering this programming tool to a greater number of communities than ever before.

This year's Inventory will be administered primarily by local safety councils serving as Local Inventory Centers. These organizations, assisted by local community committees, will solicit programming information from official agencies, hospitals, business and industry, safety councils and other community organizations.

Guides safety program

Completed local Inventory forms will be collected by Inventory Centers and forwarded to NSC's Home Department staff, who will review the information, suggest needed areas for future programming, and arrange for personal conferences with home safety leaders in each community to jointly develop a final report. This report, when accepted by the community, will be their guide in developing accident prevention activities.

To achieve its primary goal—that of an effective "tool" in community home safety programming, the 1960 Home Safety Inventory first seeks to ascertain an organization's present scope of activities in home accident prevention. Generally, the Inventory attempts to obtain from *local health departments* information concerning: (1) Their organization of home safety activities; (2) Types of home accident prevention activities conducted; (3) Home accident statistics maintained; (4) Responsibility related to housing, building and nursing home codes.

Local building departments will receive questionnaires inquiring as to: (1) Local building, fire and housing codes; (2) Occupancy inspections; (3) Cooperating agencies; (4) Research and engineering activities conducted.

Local fire departments will be asked for information regarding: (1) Organizational structure; (2) Local fire codes and standards; (3) Home fire prevention activities; (4) Research studies and their use; (5) Local home fire statistics.

City departments of public instruction will be asked to report on: (1) Home safety instruction included in school curricula; (2) Instructional methods utilized; (3) Other community organizations assisting schools in home safety edu-

cation; (4) School-sponsored youth groups concerned with the subject.

Business and industries will be queried concerning: (1) Records and statistics concerned with off-the-job home accidents; (2) Types of organizations with which they cooperate in their off-the-job safety activities; (3) Types of activities involved in their off-the-job safety program.

The questionnaire for *hospitals* will include: (1) Possible home safety injury surveys conducted; (2) Educational activities; (3) Building safety features.

The *community organization* questionnaire will include questions on: (1) Special aspects of home safety of concern to the particular organization; (2) Methods and techniques most frequently used; (3) Audience groups contacted; (4) Extent of community-wide home safety participation.

Local safety organizations will be asked to summarize the entire home safety picture in the community, and to outline their special contribution to the community's home safety activities.

The ultimate objective of the Home Inventory is achieved when community leaders meet to discuss the findings, draw up meaningful activities and take steps to implement the entire program—a program in which all citizens cooperate to cope with this problem of home accident prevention.●

Readers Tell Us

We like it—but——

It was gratifying to see the article ("More Laws—Cure for Gun Accidents?" summer 1960) setting forth the NRA position on firearms legislation. I do feel that I ought to throw one little sour note into my letter here in view of the fact that we do not particularly accept the statistics of the Gallup Poll as entirely reliable. As is customary in such surveys, a relatively small sample of the American population was involved, and we feel that the published news stories were "colored" by promotion copy and by added local incidents.

Nevertheless, we do think it was a fine article, and we are glad to see so much attention given to firearms safety. This subject is the one that we feel is our own most important public service project.

C. Richard Rogers
Director, Special Service Division
National Rifle Association

Revitalized reader

In all my years of service with Ground Safety (10 years) I have never enjoyed reading such well prepared and presented articles as those in your summer 1960 issue.

I wish to thank you for the good selection and coverage and am looking forward to the next issue. It is articles such as these that not only put safety across to unbelievers, but revitalize the ones who are in positions to help reduce these tragedies.

Paul D. Buckner
TSgt, USAF
Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N. C.

Object to gun article

As the largest single importer of firearms, both new and surplus . . . we take exception to the article ("Imports—Cheap and Dangerous," summer 1960) reprinted from the *New York Herald Tribune*. It would only be fair to your readers to point out to them that the author not only jumps to wrong conclusions, but also does not know his facts. He mentions for instance, in paragraph two of this article, a British Springfield. There is no such rifle in existence.

During the entire article the author does not give one specific concrete example of an import rifle to back up the title of his article. He comes close to giving an example in his paragraph three when he mentions Russian Army rifles. Although it is impossible to say which weapon, it may interest you that that type of Russian rifle and rifle cartridge have won five of the first six places in the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, Calif.

Peter C. Beer
Vice President, Interarmco Limited
Alexandria, Va.

Dominoes . . . old stuff

How behind the times can your editors be? The use of oversized dominoes to explain accident prevention ("Safety Made Simple," summer 1960) is nothing new. The idea was originated by Bill Heinrich sometime in the twenties. And you didn't even give him credit.

D. W.
Michigan City, Ind.

I have long since gotten over any desire to insist on credit for the "domino sequence" so it is refreshing to note that you observed the minor omission.

H. W. Heinrich
Chairman, Uniform Boiler and Pressure Vessel Laws Society.

What we'll talk about at Congress

"SAFETY EVERYWHERE—all the time" is the theme of the 48th National Safety Congress to be held in Chicago October 17-21. Home Safety Sessions will be at the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

Here's the schedule.

October 17

NSC Annual Meeting
Home Conference Executive Committee Luncheon
Home Conference Meeting

October 18

Home Conference Meeting
Congress Banquet

October 19

Health and Medical Programs in Accident Prevention

Presiding: Dr. A. L. Chapman, Asst. Surgeon General, Chief, Div. of Special Health Services, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

A Local Health Department Conducts a Seat Belt Campaign—Dr. Alberta W. Parker, Asst. Health Officer, City of Berkeley Health Department, Berkeley, Calif.

The Function of Poison Control Centers—Dr. Edward Press, Public Health Dir., Evanston, Ill.

Human Behavior in Accident Prevention—Barry G. King, Vice Pres., Life Sciences, Operations Research, Inc., Silver Spring, Md.

Community Organization for Accident Prevention. (A Panel Discussion) — *Presentation* — Dr. Dwight M. Bissell, City Health Officer, San Jose, Calif. *Participants:* Dr. Dwight M. Bissell, moderator; Dr. Alberta W. Parker, Dr. Edward Press, Barry G. King.

Visuals—Good, Bad, and Indifferent

This session is designed to review some practical ground rules for using visuals in Safety. Attention will be given to: (1) planning visual programs; (2) picking the right visuals for the job; (3) efficient production of visuals; and (4) proper use of visuals once you have them.

Chairman: Stanley A. Mate, Director, Training Activities, National Rifle Association, Washington, D. C.

Program conducted by: John Behrens, Assistant Extension Editor, Visual Aids Specialist, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.; Roland Espenscheid, Vocational Agricultural Service, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

October 20

SAFETY EVERYWHERE . . . all the time

(The why and how of off-the-job safety. The participants in this session represent a cross section of industry. Learn why their companies have off-the-job programs, how it has been done and the benefits that have been obtained.)

Co-sponsored by Home Conference, National Safety Council and American Society of Safety Engineers.

Co-Chairmen: Earl R. Wallace, Senior Safety Eng., Kodak Park Works, Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N. Y.

Samuel McKay, Jr., Supvr.-Safety, The Bell Telephone Co. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

SAFETY EVERYWHERE . . . all the time! (Film)—M. F. Biancardi, Mgr., Safety Services, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co., Milwaukee.

Safety Off-the-Job. (A Symposium)—Moderator, Earl R. Wallace.

Why You Should Have An Off-the-Job Safety Program—J. Sharp Queener, Mgr., Safety & Fire Protection Div., Employee Relations Dept., E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc., Wilmington, Del.

How You Start An Off-the-Job Program—R. H. Albisser, Safety Mgr., Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N. J.

Getting the Family Into the Program—Philip Dykstra, Mgr., Home Safety Dept., National Safety Council, Chicago.

Off-the-Job Safety For the Community—Samuel McKay, Jr.

General Discussion.

Injuries Due to Specific Hazards in the Home

Presiding: Harold Horowitz, Asst. Dir., Technical Programs, Building Research Institute, Washington, D. C.

Injuries as a Result of Falls—Dan D. Gowings, Dir., Div. of Environmental Safety, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg, Pa.

Injuries as a Result of Fires and Burns by Other Means—Jules V. Quint, Supvr., Occupational & Accident Statistics, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York City.

Panel Discussion.

Participants:

Albert L. Phillips, Executive Director, Greater New Haven Safety Council, New Haven, Conn.

E. M. Gearhart, Jr., Managing Director, Spokane Area Safety Council, Spokane, Wash.

William H. Keeler, Director, Rochester Safety Council, Rochester, N. Y.

Congress Party

It's New . . .

HOME SAFETY PRODUCTS

Publication of product announcements in this section should not be construed as endorsement or approval by the National Safety Council.

Fi 521 ex

Folding fire escapes

This aluminum fire escape ladder folds into what looks like a rain spout. The control button which opens or closes the ladder is located both inside the second story window and a first story window in case a person caught upstairs in fire would panic and fail to open the ladder. The ladder is located near the second story window so a user could open or break the window and step onto the ladder. According to the manufacturer, the product is burglar proof, weather proof and engineered with non skid treads.

Coolman Industries, 201-202 Whitker Bldg., Ann Arbor, Mich.

Sp 166

Alarm for pools

Here is a swimming pool alarm reputed to be one-fourth the cost of existing alarms. The device, according to the manufacturer, sets up a warning horn that can be heard 500 feet away whenever a person accidentally falls into the pool. Called "Transista," the alarm utilizes a transistor circuit instead of the 110 volt house current used in other alarms. You set the alarm by pushing the plunger and tipping it in a specified direction. Should it go off, it will supposedly continue blowing until it is reset.

Home Pool Equip Inc., 1815 N. Potrero Ave., El Monte, Calif.

Ho 751

Emergency tags

These safety tags are designed to help the housewife know which valve shuts off what in an emergency. They come in sets of eight, worded: main water shut-off, main electric shut-off, main gas shut-off, kitchen hot water, kitchen cold water, bathroom hot water, bathroom cold water. The eighth tag is blank, enabling you to label it as you desire. They also include bead chains with which to fasten them on the shut-offs. Cost for set of eight, $1.50.

Seton Name Plate Company, Inc., 50 Fitch St., New Haven 15, Conn.

Ho 751

Safety door

This storm door contains shatterproof glass that will not harm children or adults should they run into it, says the manufacturer. On the assumption that many persons are injured each year by shattering glass in storm doors, the company has installed the safety glass at an extra cost of about $12 to $15 a door. It is thicker and heavier than ordinary door glass and is reputed to be comparatively "burglar proof."

The F. C. Russell Company, Columbiana, Ohio.